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Letter dated 5 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation and Republic of Tajikistan) on strengthening the non-proliferation regime by establishing zones free of nuclear weapons, including the Central Asian zone (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 94, and of the United Nations Security Council.

(*Signed*) Byrganym **Aitimova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on strengthening the non-proliferation regime by establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in Central Asia

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, one of the universal instruments preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, guarantees that dozens of States across vast areas of our planet pledge neither to develop nor to possess any nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices, or to exercise direct or indirect control over them; they also pledge neither to produce nor by any other means to obtain nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or to accept any assistance in their production.

The stage that we have currently reached in the process of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones is not the final stage. We note various initiatives to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in Central and Eastern Europe. We exhort other States and regions in the world to follow the example of those States that have established nuclear-weapon-free zones. We hope that all the parties which this directly concerns, primarily all the States of the Middle Eastern region, will take practical steps towards the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In order to propagate across the world the positive practice of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, we call for the expedited institutional formalization of the status of the existing zones with the granting of negative security assurances by the nuclear-weapon States.

The concentration of nuclear weapons within the national territory of the nuclear-weapon States could serve as an effective means of expanding the geographical range of the areas totally free of nuclear weapons.

With a view to strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty regime and in the interests of safeguarding regional security, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan have established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, regarding this initiative as a vital step towards disarmament and the strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Having thus demonstrated their political will and determination, the countries of the region have made a significant contribution to efforts by the international community to strengthen regional and international security.

The earliest possible signing by the five nuclear States of the protocol on negative security assurances to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia will be of critical importance.